

# Mullum Mullum

Indigenous Gathering Place



## November 2011 Newsletter



Website - [www.mmigp.org.au](http://www.mmigp.org.au)



Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place  
3 Croydon Way, Croydon VIC 3136  
PO Box 80, Ringwood East VIC

Phone: 03 9725 2166  
Fax: 03 9725 3166  
[mmigp@mmigp.com.au](mailto:mmigp@mmigp.com.au)





## A Message from Management

The staff at MMIGP are preparing to deliver final programs for 2011. Attached to this newsletter is a jam packed schedule of dates for you all to place in your diaries.

This year we have been able to focus on culture as a key theme across all of our programs including the introduction of the MMIGP community cultural group and MMIGP dance group.

In November we also kicked off year two of the MMIGP Brutha's Day out program. Our partnership with Relationships Australia Victoria has enabled the MMIGP men's groups to partner and work with other men's groups across the region in the delivery of the Brutha's Day out Program. For more information please contact Thomas Harrison. The Women 'get active' program has also seen the delivery of a Pilates and Yoga series, and we will soon kick off our second series of Pilates and encourage all women to come along and participate.

On the 3 December 2011 we will deliver our second Market Day at Patterson Street - we really need your support to spread the word about this fundraising activity and encourage attendance at the Market day. Along with the Market Day MMIGP staff along with local reconciliation groups have been attending many community events such as the Knox Stringybark Festival as an opportunity to promote MMIGP and to sell merchandise as a means of raising funds for our building fund. If you have any ideas or you are in a position to support upcoming fundraising activities please contact Melissa on 97252166 or [melissa@mmigp.com.au](mailto:melissa@mmigp.com.au).

MMIGP Management and staff would like to thank the hard work and commitment of our volunteers across a range of programs and initiatives once again this year. The support of our many volunteers ensures that unfunded programs can continue to run and fund raising activities are a continual focus all year round.

MMIGP Board of Directors and staff would like to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all over the next two months.



Karen Milward  
Chairperson.



Melissa Stevens  
Managing Director





# What's been happening

## MMIGP Youth Holiday Program

The final Holiday program of 2011 was a great success enjoyed by all. The wet weather did not stop the fun at Healesville Sanctuary as many young people learned about native wildlife in Melbourne.

Funfields was well attended and enjoyed by both attendees and MMIGP Staff! The weather was perfect and the activities & rides provided offered all a great day out.

For more information about Youth Programs, please contact MMIGP on 9725 2166.



## Community Culture Group

The Community Cultural group has grown with new members attending each fortnight. Proud Gunnai woman, Rebecca Green has taken the leadership role of teaching the community women and girls traditional dance. Thomas Harrison has continued to teach the community men and young boys dance and traditional Indigenous games.

For more information about the Community Cultural Group contact MMIGP on 97252166.



## EMR Aboriginal Health and Healing Expo

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and the Cultural Dance Group participated in the recent Expo. MMIGP hosted a stall and the dance group performed at the commencement of the event. This was a great opportunity for MMIGP to showcase our work and the talent amongst the dance group.



## Fundraising

MMIGP has placed a strong focus upon fundraising opportunities and have participated in a number of community events that have allowed for the promotion of MMIGP, the sale of merchandise and the coordination of cultural activities encouraging participation of the broader community. MMIGP is coordinating a market day on 3 December 2011 and we would really appreciate your support in both attendance and promotion of the event amongst your networks.



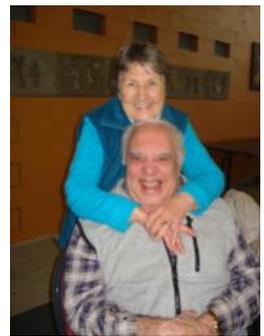
**TOGETHER  
WE ARE STRONGER**



## What's been happening cont.

### Elders Network

The Elders group were very busy in September and October. Cheryl Vickery from the Billabong Project dropped in for a visit, a day at the Movies was well attended and the 'Our Generation' documentary was enjoyed by Elders during an In-House activity.



Recently the Elders enjoyed a great day out at Sky High and are very eager for the following upcoming programs:

- Thursday 13th November - Christmas Lunch at Aboriginal Advancement League (AAL)
- Thursday 17th November - In-House Lunch with Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) in regards Personal Safety

For more information about the Elder's Network, please contact Jackie on 9725 2166.

### Men's Network

The countdown is on to Brutha's Day Out (BDO). In partnership with Relationship Australia - Victoria (RAV), the next BDO is set for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00am to 2.00pm at 47 Patterson Street, Ringwood East. The event will feature presentations from Victorian Indigenous organisations targeting Indigenous men's health and wellbeing, cultural workshops including Art project with Uncle Rex Murray.



### Visit from Tjaegan's Warriors

Two Strong Indigenous men's groups came together recently as the MMIGP Men's Group welcomed Tjaegan's Warriors to dinner at 47 Patterson Street. The evening was well attended and developed some great relationships with men in both groups. For more information about the Men's Network and Brutha's Day Out, please contact Thomas on 9725 2166.

### Women's Network

After the successful delivery of the Busy Tiddas Program, the next instalment is set to begin shortly with 'Pilates for Women' program beginning on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November. This program is for all women and no experience is needed so come along and enjoy yourself!

For more information about the Women's Network and upcoming activities, please contact MMIGP on 9725 2166.

### Lateral Violence Project

MMIGP was funded by the Family Violence Regional Action Group to develop a small community awareness project in relation to Lateral Violence. (LV) MMIGP have worked on some posters and short digital story to further raise awareness about this issue in community and to start exploring strategies for addressing Lateral Violence. This topic was identified by the MMIGP staff at a 2010 planning day as a critical issues within community and staff were keen to show leadership and ensure that behaviors attributed to LV were not played out during MMIGP's planned activities. *The digital story will be made available in mid December and posters will be circulating soon.*





# About MMIGP

The Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP) is a community controlled Aboriginal organisation based in the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne. MMIGP is an Aboriginal neighbourhood house and has been developmental and evolved over time according to identified need.

The aims of MMIGP support the following enhanced outcomes for the Aboriginal community of the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne by providing a range of programs and activities that:

- Lengthening life
- Strengthening children, young people and families
- Cultural integrity and safety
- Support to implement innovative community-based approaches and solutions
- Collaborative planning and decision-making based on community-driven priorities
- Stronger partnerships between Aboriginal and mainstream services
- Stronger partnerships with government

---

## What we do at MMIGP

The Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place has a social engagement focus.

### *So what does that mean?*

Our aim is to develop programs that encourage participation of our community members within planned activities (see diagram).

Our aim is to provide a culturally safe place for community members to come together and participate in program activities.

With the exception of the Elders Planned Activity Group (PAG) the Indigenous

Wellbeing team is responsible for overseeing the planning and delivery of such programs.

### Building Partnerships

Whilst MMIGP does not provide direct service delivery our HACC and Community team are focused upon building strong referral networks to improve community access to mainstream services and to build the cultural

competency of such services. Our aim is to ensure our community have a positive experience when accessing mainstream services. MMIGP has a strong focus in providing health promotion and health prevention information to community to ensure we avoid chronic and long term illness. Together through our AHPACC partnership with EACH we are able to cover a range of health promotion and chronic care issues.

